

Location of Schumann Mill and Home in Reichersdorf, Germany

Paul Schumann

Based on research by Dan Chamness, Susan Chamness Jones and Paul Schumann

Our family historical records indicate that Albert F. Schumann's (1844 – 1925) saw mill and home was located at 100 Rochlitzer Strasse in Reichersdorf, Germany in the state of Saxony. Finding the exact location has been difficult because the town of Reichersdorf seems to no longer exist, Rochlitzer Strasse doesn't extend to the area that may have been Reichersdorf, and the numbering system on the streets has changed. The small area we think is Reichersdorf is between Bad Lausick and Buchheim. That area is Southwest of Leipzig as indicated in the map below by the arrow.



The next map shown below shows Bad Lausick and Buchheim with the red circle indicating the region believed to be Reichersdorf. Reichersdorf is crossed by two roads, Reichersdorf Strasse and Alt Buchheimer Strasse. Our historical records indicate that the house was on Rochlitzer Strasse, which is

one of the oldest roads in Bad Lausick. It turns into Reichersdorf Strasse on its South end and Alt Buchheimer Strasse branches from Reichersdorf Strasse.



Bad Lausick¹ seems to be beautiful and have some nice hotels and resorts. Bad in German means bath, pond or spring. (Think of it as the name "Springs" in an American place name. It's probably a place that was famous as a spa because of some mineral spring.)

Below are a few pictures of Bad Lausick from Wolpy (<http://www.wolpy.com/places/2953411/photos>):

¹ Bad Lausick is a town in the Leipzig district, in the Free State of Saxony, Germany. It is situated 12 km southwest of Grimma, and 29 km southeast of Leipzig. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bad_Lausick



Rochlitzer Strasse



Bad Lausick from the Air²

² It appears that purely by accident this photograph from the Internet is taken from a perspective above and South – East of what appears to be Reichersdorf. Note the pond in the foreground. This may be the pond that was used by the mill.



Park in Bad Lausick

Susan Chamness Jones did the most exhaustive research on the ground in the area and wrote the following:

When we first came to Bad Lausick, I asked a lady if there was a Reichersdorf. She said it was a small section off Richersdorfstrasse where some houses surrounded a pond. We drove by and then took the first left to drive back around through the neighborhood. But, we were already in the Buchheim section of town. I saw a lady hanging out a second-story window and asked her if Reichersdorf was somewhere nearby. She said the road ahead was closed to repair the bridge and that we needed to go back around Reichersdorfstrasse and enter by the pond. So we did, parked, and walked around. The street dead-ended at the blocked-off RR bridge. We took pictures, but at that time didn't have any information. I asked another lady if there were any Schumanns living there but she didn't know any.

The last day of our stay, we were wandering around town and saw a small tourist office (not well advertised). We picked up some brochures and I bought a street map. We had been told that Rochlitzerstrasse is one of the oldest streets in Bad Lausick, and so we drove down it looking for #100. One old building had #114 carved in stone over the door but the more modern metal street # was something else, so the numbering has been changed over the years.

When we got home, I looked carefully through the brochures, etc., and studied it all. I read in the Wanderheft (p. 38) that the old Buchheimer Street used to serve as the postal route to Rochlitz.

This street passes right through a section called Reichersdorf and maybe was called Rochlitzerstrasse at one time.

I studied the street map and saw that beyond the RR bridge that was totally blocked, there appears to be another part to Reichersdorf. There is a saw mill on what looks like a diverted part of a creek. What bad luck we missed that. I had asked a couple of people about any mills in the area but they couldn't think of any. That may be the mill. If it still exists, there should be a record of ownership. But then I read that a fire in the old Rathaus destroyed many records. I'll look further into this point.

Susan Chamness Jones is the great great granddaughter of Albert F. Schumann who owned the mill.

She took some pictures at the junction of Reichersdorf Strasse and Bucheimer Strasse and a pond. Several of these are shown below:

Pictured are and Susan Chamness Jones and her son Matthew Chamness Jones

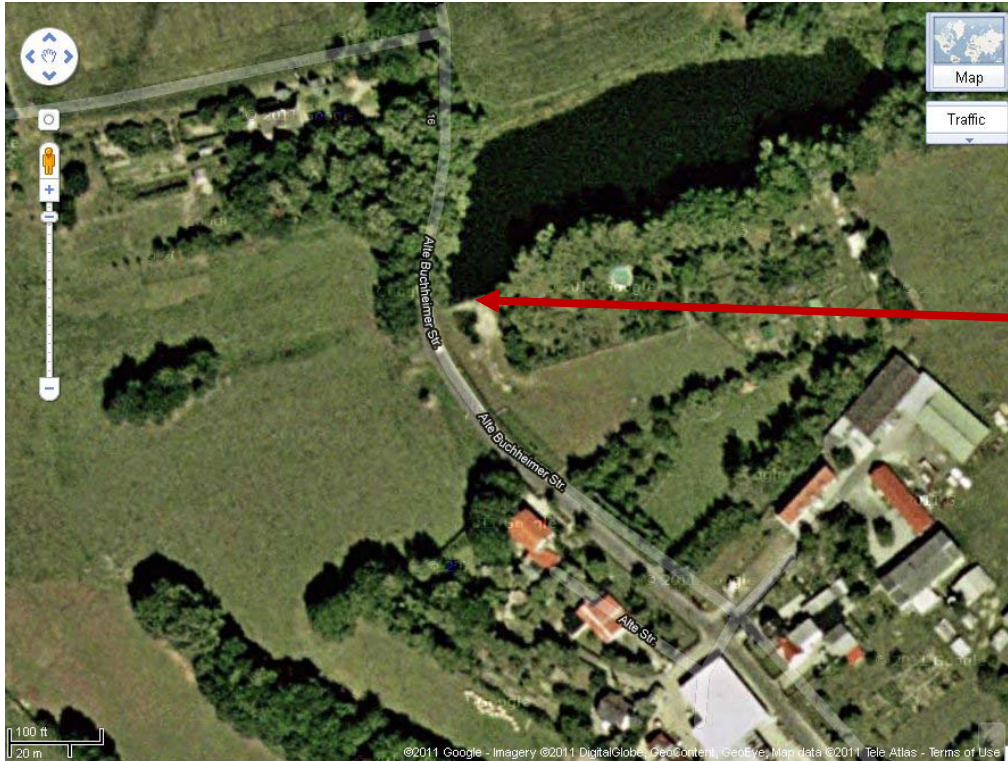




The next map indicates the possible location of the mill. It is the end of what appears to be a dammed stream creating a pond, and is the only body of water in the area large enough to support a mill. There is no structure visible in the satellite photo.

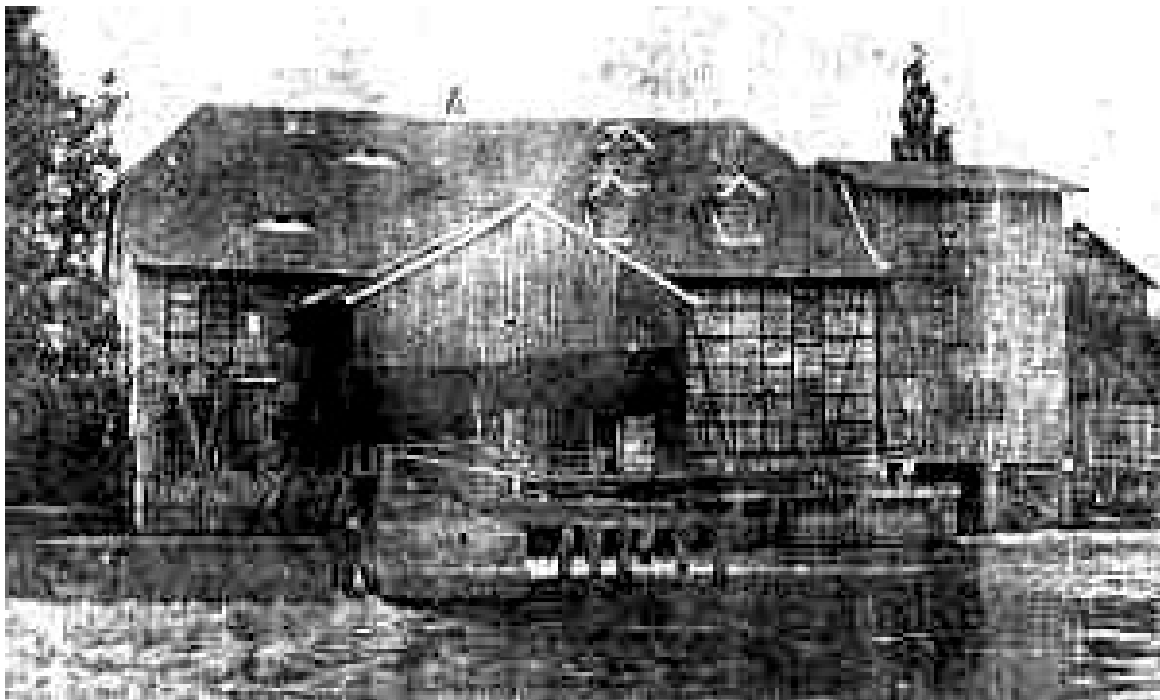


The next map shows an enlarged view of the area:



Possible location
of mill.

We have two black and white photos³ of what is thought to be the mill as shown below:



³ These photos from the family collection were added to the Schoenwerde web site (<http://www.schoenewerda.de/>) by Dan Chamness, and were taken in 1909 by Carl Heinecke from Essmannsdorf.

And, we have two paintings of Paul R. Schumann (son of Albert Schumann) that may be of the mill:



Paul Schumann, July 21, 2011

The black and white photos and the first painting look very much alike. The last painting, the house is similar (especially the large tree) but in the real location, there are no high mountains.

There is also a photograph of a church in Buchheim (Kirche Buchheim⁴) that is only about 400 meters from the supposed location of the mill.



Kirche Buchheim

⁴ Google maps, photos



Map Showing Location of Kirche Buchheim (inset photo) and supposed mill pond 400 meters north west.

The image of the church in the background of the second Schumann painting looks very much like the church in Buchheim. However, many of the churches in area are built like this.

On the next page is an older map of the area provided by Dan Chamness:

